



The Cornwall Independent School



British Values and SMSC in Year 5&6

British Values

At The Cornwall Independent School, fostering mutual respect, understanding and a strong sense of community is central to school life. We recognise that modern Britain is made up of people from a wide range of backgrounds, cultures, beliefs and experiences, and we prepare our pupils to live and contribute positively within this diverse society. British Values support the development of respectful, responsible and tolerant citizens who appreciate the rights, freedoms and viewpoints of others. The Cornwall Independent School is committed to providing a safe and inclusive environment where all pupils feel valued and protected from intimidation, extremism, radicalisation, or any influence that seeks to undermine their wellbeing, personal development or the values of a democratic society.

British Values are important in Year 5 and 6 because children are developing greater independence and are forming their own opinions.

They help pupils develop the social, emotional and critical-thinking skills they need as they become more independent. They support children in understanding their responsibilities within the school and wider community and help them develop into respectful, responsible citizens. British values are embedded naturally throughout the curriculum, classroom routines, form time, relationships, discussions, assemblies.

Democracy	The children are given opportunities to have their voices heard through class discussions, voting, school councils, and making shared decisions about classroom activities. We often have a vote about what activities to do during an active break and this teaches children that everyone's opinion matters and that decisions can be made fairly. Not only do we vote for our school council representative but within the school council meetings the representees often vote to have their ideas approved by the majority. The children confidently share their opinions in class and everyone is encouraged to have their voice and ideas heard.
The Rule of Law	At the beginning of the school year, we share clear classroom expectations and discuss why rules are necessary. The children make their own set of rules collaboratively that they feel would make the classroom a safe space to learn. Children explore the difference between rules, rights, responsibilities and consequences. We help them understand that rules exist to keep people safe. The children know that everyone is expected to follow them and they know the consequences for breaking rules.

Individual Liberty	Children are encouraged to make appropriate choices and take responsibility for their learning and behaviour. Children feel confident expressing their opinions and making choices. They are reminded that their opinions and choices should not negatively affect others and are regularly reminded to be kind and considerate to others. Within the school setting the children can choose their friends and choose activities for break and lunch times. They can express their personal style on non-uniform days and are encouraged to share their opinions respectfully.
Mutual Respect	The classroom is a place where the children listen to one another, value different opinions and treat everyone with kindness and dignity. When the children disagree, they learn how to debate respectfully with the guidance of the teacher. The children are encouraged to talk through disagreements with friends and to think about how each person involved may be feeling.
Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs	The children learn about different faiths and beliefs in RE and during assemblies and form time. They are taught about different cultures, religions, beliefs and ways of life. Children are encouraged to ask respectful questions and challenge stereotypes or prejudice.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Education

At The Cornwall Independent School, Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) education is at the heart of our values and ethos. We believe in nurturing the whole child and encouraging every pupil to develop respect for themselves, others and the world around them. Through our commitment to kindness, empathy, integrity and responsibility, we foster a supportive and inclusive community where everyone feels valued and empowered to thrive.

We encourage pupils to embrace diversity, demonstrate tolerance, build resilience and reflect on their experiences and actions. By promoting these qualities, we help our young people become confident, compassionate and active citizens who are well prepared for life in modern Britain and able to make positive progress in every aspect of their learning and personal development.

In Year 5 and Year 6, Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) education is developed through a combination of the curriculum, school values, relationships, assemblies, wider experiences and opportunities for pupils to take responsibility. The children are encouraged to express and justify their opinions, listen respectfully to perspectives that differ from their own, understand increasingly complex social and moral issues, and take greater responsibility for their actions and their contribution to the school and wider community.

Spiritual	Children are encouraged to reflect on their beliefs, values, feelings and experiences. They can explore questions about meaning, identity, purpose and what is important to them, while respecting different beliefs and perspectives. They explore different religions, beliefs and worldviews in RE. They are given time to appreciate nature, art, music and literature. PSHE lessons provide many opportunities for developing the children's spiritual education and form times/ lunch times provide opportunity to the children to discuss current events or things that they are interested in. Children are also given opportunities for reflection and quiet thought.
Moral	The children learn to distinguish between right and wrong and understand the consequences of their choices. Positive behaviour is celebrated but the children know the consequences for breaking school rules. The children have opportunities to discuss moral dilemmas and considering different viewpoints, particularly in PSHE and RE. They develop an understanding of fairness, justice, responsibility and respect through all aspects of school life. The children learn about issues such as equality, environmental responsibility and human rights in assemblies, PSHE and humanities. The children understand the importance of rules and why they are needed in society, they work collaboratively to create the class rules and understand that rules help to keep us all safe. The children are encouraged to reflect on their own behaviour and make positive choices.

Social	The children regularly work collaboratively in pairs and groups, these are varied to encourage children to work with a variety of different people which helps to develop their social skills. They develop communication skills in most lessons, listening and responding in a wide range of situations including learning ways to manage conflict with others. The children build positive relationships with the pupils throughout the school and adults. They are encouraged to take on responsibilities, such as being a school council representative, house captains, team captains, buddy to new pupils or a playtime help with our ks2 pupils. They participate in team sports, clubs, residentials and school activities. In PSHE and form time they learn about democracy, community and their responsibilities as citizens.
Cultural	The children learn about different cultures, traditions, religions and ways of life in RE, assemblies and during form time. We celebrate and respect diversity within the school and wider community. The children explore different forms of art, music, literature, dance and drama in art, music, PE and English. We learn about British values and how these relate to life in modern Britain. The children have opportunities to explore local, national and global communities. The children comparing their own culture and experiences with those of others.

In conclusion, teaching British Values and SMSC in years 5 and 6 is central to developing well-rounded, respectful and responsible young people who are prepared to contribute positively to society. Through our curriculum, assemblies, relationships and everyday school life, the children are given opportunities to explore democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs, alongside developing their spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding. We ensure that these values are not taught as isolated concepts, but are embedded meaningfully across school life, enabling children to reflect, question, make informed choices and understand the importance of their responsibilities towards themselves and others. By the end of KS2, we aim for every pupil to have the knowledge, confidence and empathy to appreciate diversity, respect different viewpoints and make a positive contribution to their school, community and wider society.